

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 H-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

DRC-01 /048 W

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O 060445Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4976

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6517

ISLAMABAD 7398 SENT KABUL ONLY SEPTEMBER 5 REPEATED FOR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7398

LIMDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, PK

SUBJ: AFGHAN CONSUL REPORTS CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE SOBER

REF: KABUL 6647 AND ISLAMABAD 7342

1. MEETING ON WHICH AFGHAN CONSUL BASED HIS REPORT WAS CASUAL ENCOUNTER OF SEVERAL MINUTES AT LARGE RECEPTION GIVEN BY OUR CONSUL IN PESHAWAR ON AUGUST 22. AFGHAN CONSUL'S REPORT REFLECTS SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MIGHT HAVE ARISEN FROM BRIEFNESS OF CONVERSATION AS WELL AS CONSUL'S FAULTY RECOLLECTION OF SOME POINTS WHEN HE ASKED ME ABOUT SENATOR PERCY'S VISIT TO KABUL. I SAID SENATORPERCY WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY HIS RECEPTION AND IN THAT CONTEXT I NOTED THAT HE HAD MET WITH BOTH DAUD AND NAIM. FROM MY OWN RATHER BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH PERCY HERE ON THIS SUBJECT, I DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE BASIS FOR COMMENTING ON HOW PERCY FELT ABOUT HIS MEETING
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WITH DAUD AND I DID NOT OFFER ANY COMMENT THAT SUBJECT.

IN RESPONSE SOME PRESSING BY AFGHAN CONSUL, I SAID I COULD ONLY GIVE MY OWN LIMITED IMPRESSION ON THE ONE SUBJECT WHICH NATURALLY WAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ME, I.E., AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS. I SAID I THOUGHT IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT THOSE RELATIONS REMAIN GOOD AND THAT NOTHING COME UP WHICH COULD CONSTITUTE A SOURCE OF TROUBLE BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. I NOTED THAT PAKISTANIS WERE AT THAT MOMENT NEGOTIATING WITH INDIANS IN DELHI AND WE HOPED THEY WOULD COME TO AGREEMENT ON VARIOUS HUMANITARIAN ISSUES REMAINING FROM 1971 WAR. AT SUCH A TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION HAD SO MANY DOMESTIC MATTERS WHICH CALLED FOR THEIR ATTENTION, IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF AN ISSUE LIKE PUSHTUNISTAN BECAME A SOURCE OF TROUBLE. I SAID WE HAD NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT DAUD HAD STATED PUBLICLY HIS INTENTION TO DEAL PEACEFULLY WITH THIS ISSUE. SURELY MEN OF GOOD WILL COULD DISCUSS PROBLEM TO GOOD PURPOSE. I DID ADD THAT I HAD BEEN PERSONALLY CONCERNED OVER HAVING HEARD THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME MENTION IN KABUL OF "RIGHT OF ANNEXATION" OF PATHAN AREAS IN PAKISTAN. SUCH TALK NATURALLY RECALLED TO MIND PAKISTAN'S TROUBLES OF TWO YEARS AGO AND WAS DISTURBING TO ME BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF FURTHER TROUBLE. I AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH AFGHAN CONSUL THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH PEACEFULLY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND NOT BECOME A SOURCE OF SUCH TROUBLE.

2. AS FOR HELMAN WATERS, I SIMPLY DO NOT RECALL HOW THAT MIGHT HAVE COME UP IN MY BRIEF TALK WITH AFGHAN CONSUL. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT I NOTED THAT THE TREATY STILL HAD TO BE ACTED ON BY GOA AND THAT WE HOPED IT WOULD CONSTITUTE ANOTHER ELEMENT OF STABILITY IN THE REGION. I AM QUITE SURE I DID NOT ASCRIBE ANY UNHAPPINESS TO SENATOR PERCY ON QUESTION OF HELMAND WATERS FROM HIS VISIT TO KABUL.

3. FINAL PARAGRAPH OF AFGHAN CONSUL'S REPORT AS QUOTED REFTEL HAS ME SAYING THAT "FURTHER DISMEMBERMENT OF PAKISTAN...CANNOT BE TOLERATED". I MAY VERY WELL HAVE EMPHASIZED, MORE THAN ONCE, IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF PAKISTAN AS A MATTER OF US POLICY, BUT I DO NOT THINK IN THOSE PARTICULAR TERMS AND SURELY HAVE NEVER SAID THAT WE "CANNOT TOLERATE" ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT THREATEN PAKISTAN.

4. I THINK AFGHAN CONSUL WAS RATHER FREE WITH HIS INTERPRETATIONS AND ALLEGED QUOTATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HIS REPORT. I TRUST I AM NOT SO CRUDE AS TO CRITICIZE HIS GOVERNMENT

TO A RELATIVELY MINOR OFFICIAL OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND
CONSUL MAY HAVE CONSIDERED AS CRITICISM THE EMPHASIS
I PLACED ON NEED FOR GOA AND GOP TO DEAL PEACEFULLY
WITH PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. SO BE IT. I HAVE NOT SPOKEN
DIFFERENTLY ON THIS SUBJECT TO AFGHAN AMBASADOR IN
IN ISLAMABAD, AND I THINK HE HAS TAKEN ANY COMMENTS I HAVE
MADE ON THIS SUBJECT NOT AS CRITICISM OF AFGHANISTAN BUT
RATHER AS REFLECTIVE OF HOPES FOR GOOD AND INCREASINGLY
BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. I HOPE ABOVE COMMENTS ARE OF SOME HELP TO YOU.
REGRET DELAY IN SENDING BECAUSE OF FIELD TRIP WITH
MAURIE WILLIAMS.
SOBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL06517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WILLIAMS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730952/aaaablwm.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: KABUL 6647 AND ISLAMABAD 7342
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFGHAN CONSUL REPORTS CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE SOBER
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AF, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005